



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

*Maryland's Social Services Agency*



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**For immediate release:**

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**For more information:**

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**DHR's HOME ENERGY PROGRAM PROJECTS SERVING 140,000 DURING  
2010 PROGRAM YEAR**

**BALTIMORE** – The Maryland Department of Human Resources is serving record-breaking numbers of people through its Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The Maryland Energy Assistance Program provides assistance with home heating bills.

The program started accepting applications in July 1, 2009 and will end May 31, 2010. During the 2010 program year, more than 160,000 households are expected to apply for energy assistance. The program has already served 115,000 households with an average grant of \$336. Compared to last year, the projected increase is about 18,000 households. During the 2009 program year, 144,281 applications were received.

To prepare for the 2011 program year, the Department will be conducting two public hearings to garner public comment on its proposed state operational plan. The state plan outlines strategies to provide services to assist citizens to meet their increasing energy cost. The proposed annual state plan is available for review on [www.dhr.state.md.us/ohep](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/ohep). Recommendations will be considered in developing the final program plan.

Two public hearings are scheduled. The first hearing will be held on June 2, 2010 in Baltimore City and the other on June 3, 2010 in Talbot County. All are encouraged to participate in the public hearing process.

Public hearing schedule:

**BALTIMORE CITY**

June 2, 2010 10 a.m– 12 p.m.

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development

2700 N. Charles Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Conference Room

Baltimore MD 21218

Contact: Cherlyn Mitchell

• Martin O'Malley, Governor

• Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

• Brenda Donald, Secretary

410- 396-3584

**TALBOT COUNTY**

June 3, 2010 10 a.m.– 12 p.m.  
Talbot County Neighborhood Service Center  
126 Port Street  
Conference Room  
Easton, MD 21601  
Contact: Cardeaner Robinson  
410-763-6745

If participants cannot attend the public hearing, the Department will accept written comments. Send written comments to Ralph Markus, Director of the Office of Home Energy Programs at 311 West Saratoga Street, Room 239, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3521. The deadline for receiving written comments is June 10, 2010.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption, and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; provide protective services, case- management, supportive housing, in-home aide services, and respite care to vulnerable adults; and provide temporary cash, food stamps, and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, and migrant- workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered, or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 760,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.